

from the Fifth District of North Carolina, the Honorable Wilmer "Vinegar Bend" Mizelle.

Born in 1930 in Leakesville, Mississippi, he spent his early life in the town from which he received his famous nickname, Vinegar Bend, Alabama. Wilmer Mizelle lived a full and rich life before his sudden death this past Sunday, February 21, 1999.

He grew up in rural America, but like most boys of his day, he had a greater dream. It was to be a professional baseball player. He had the talent to make his dream a reality and, as a young man, soon found himself assigned to the minor leagues and a team in my hometown of Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Vinegar Bend was a pitcher, a southpaw, and you can still today find fans who remember the strength he possessed as he held the mound at Ernie Shore Field.

It was during this time that he met Nancy McAlpine who would later become his wife.

Vinegar Bend broke into the big leagues with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1952. Standing at over 6 feet tall, he was an imposing figure as a hard-throwing left-hander when he hurled that ball towards home plate.

In 1960, Vinegar Bend was traded to the Pittsburgh Pirates and went 13 and 5 that year as part of a strong starting rotation. It was in 1960 that he pitched in the World Series winning a game as the Pittsburgh Pirates became the world champions.

In 1962, he was traded to the Mets in their first game, which turned out to be his last year as a ball player. Vinegar Bend had 90 wins in his career, including 15 shutouts, and an E.R.A. of 3.85 lifetime.

After retiring from baseball, Wilmer and Nancy returned to North Carolina and he took up a new career, that of public service, where he has served as a commissioner and then as a Member of Congress from North Carolina's Fifth District.

Wilmer Mizelle worked as hard in Congress as he did on the baseball field. That is known by his colleagues and by his constituents. He always explained that he saw himself as an advocate for farmers and factory workers and consumers who populated his district.

Vinegar Bend served three terms in this House from 1969 to 1975 and then was appointed Assistant Secretary of Commerce by President Gerald Ford. He returned to North Carolina in 1976 only to be called back by President Reagan to serve as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture and then as a member of President Bush's President's Council on Physical Fitness and Health.

Wilmer then retired from government service, but he never slowed down. I can recall that Vinegar Bend returned to be with us in 1995 in this House in the majority to help give us

some advice on our Republican baseball team. He never lost his love for sports.

After the death of his wife Nancy, Wilmer married Ruth Cox, and together they divided their time between their homes in Alexandria, in North Carolina, and in Texas. They spent a great deal of time working in Texas with the Christian Missionary Alliance Church.

Back home in my district, Wilmer Mizelle's reputation was as imposing as his physical stature. He was known as an honest, dedicated representative of the people. He filled his speeches with humor and home spun stories, and he only had to speak a few words before they knew he was from the south.

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Wilmer Mizelle's life calls to memory the words of Woodrow Wilson, who said, "There's no cause half so sacred as the cause of people. There is no idea so uplifting as the idea of service of humanity."

Clearly, Wilmer Mizelle proved Leo Durocher wrong when he said, "Nice guys finish last." As a matter of fact, Wilmer Mizelle won before the game ever started.

He is survived by his wife Ruth and sons Danny and David and by four grandchildren. On behalf of the United States Congress and the State of North Carolina, I extend our sympathy to them for this great loss, the life of Vinegar Bend Mizelle.

SUPPORT A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CONVENTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution to express the sense of Congress that the United States take the critical first steps toward the negotiation and conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention. Just as conventions exist to abolish both chemical and biological weapons, the world needs a convention for the reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons.

Although the Cold War has ended, U.S. nuclear weapons expenditures remain significant. The United States currently spends \$35 billion a year, or 14 percent of the defense budget, on efforts such as the \$4.5 billion we plan to spend on the Stockpile Stewardship program. That \$4.5 billion is more than what we spent on average each year over the entire Cold War between 1948 and 1991. At that time we spent \$3.6 billion a year when we were developing and building hundreds of thousands of new warheads and when we had nuclear testing sites common throughout our Nation.

How much is \$35 billion? It is 13 times the budget for the National Cancer Institute. It is 120 times the amount spent annually on domestic violence, battered women's shelters, and runaway youth.

Our current priorities dictate that nuclear weapons are more important than health care and the environment. Of every discretionary dollar that Californians, and all Americans, as a matter of fact, paid in taxes, 7½ cents went to nuclear weapons, 4.7 cents went to health care, and 5 cents went to the environment and energy.

Speaking of health and the environment, we still do not know how nuclear testing is going to affect both. It is estimated that the cleanup of nuclear weapons will eventually cost as much as the total cost of developing and manufacturing actual warheads. That would be \$400 billion. That is outrageous.

The money we have spent on nuclear weapons throughout our Nation's history is definitely shocking. From 1940 through 1996 we have spent nearly \$5.5 trillion in constant 1996 dollars. We have spent nearly \$5.5 trillion in U.S. nuclear weapons activities.

The amount of money spent on nuclear weapons, represented as a stack of \$1 bills, would stretch more than 459,000 miles. That would be to the moon and nearly back again. That \$5.5 trillion is more than we have spent on any single program, except Social Security, over the same period of time.

Even worse, because of poor management and oversight, hundreds of billions of dollars were wasted on programs that contributed little or nothing to defense and deterrence. In other words, for many of these projects the American taxpayer did not get anything for the money they spent.

For example, the U.S. spent \$21.3 billion on the Safeguard Antiballistic Missile System that was ultimately canceled because of high operational costs that eclipsed the limited defense benefits. It took that figure for us to know that the costs outweighed the benefits of this program. Whatever happened to accountability?

We also wasted \$12.5 billion on the development of the B-1A bomber which was canceled. On this program we spent \$12.5 billion and made a total of four planes, two that crashed.

The Aircraft Nuclear Propulsion Program cost \$7 billion only to be canceled due to poor management.

Finally, the Midgetman/Small ICBM cost taxpayers over \$5.5 billion, only to be canceled due to lack of need at the end of the Cold War.

Enough is enough. We cannot spend money on unnecessary, unneeded nuclear weapons while we neglect our children. Reducing our nuclear arsenal here at home, or through an international treaty, will save billions of dollars and shift our Nation's priorities

to investment in a healthy, safe and well educated Nation. Providing children access to health care, a safe environment, and a quality education is the kind of investment that will truly secure our Nation's future.

That is why I am asking my colleagues to support the Nuclear Weapons Convention resolution that I introduce today urging the President to initiate multilateral negotiations for an early nuclear weapons convention.

IN MEMORY OF OFFICER BEAN, ONE OF SACRAMENTO'S UNSUNG HEROES

(Mr. OSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today to note the passing of one of Sacramento's many unsung heroes.

A week ago Officer Bean was buried, the victim of a ridiculous act by one of California's many residents who were out on parole. Officer Bean was a 27-year-old officer in the Sacramento Police Department, unmarried, full-time student, who had set aside his other lifetime goals to contribute to the peace and security of our community. On patrol one night he stopped a car; and, by happenstance, that person had a weapon, took a shot that went underneath his vest, and he is now dead.

I did not want to have any more time pass before noting his passing and the appreciation that each of us have in our respective communities for our unsung heroes.

Men or women, Democrat or Republican, Sacramento is the worse off for what happened, and I just felt it was appropriate to note that.

SUPPORT THE EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I address the House today to support the Education Flexibility Act, a bill sponsored by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER) and the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE). It is a bipartisan bill aimed at giving greater flexibility to local schools to do their job, the important job they do of educating our children.

During the past couple of months I have visited 10 or 12 schools in my district, and visited the school districts there to sort of find out what they think of the Federal role in education. The Federal role in education usually accounts for about 4 to 8 percent of the budgets of the average school district, and I wanted to know if they thought that was helping.

The answer I got back was, yes, the money helps, but there is too much red tape and there is too much regulation. They want greater freedom so that they can exercise their skills and use the teachers and principals and parents and everybody involved in education on the local level. There is too much Federal red tape, and the Education Flexibility Act would target that red tape.

Right now we have a pilot project that allows some 12 States in the country to take advantage of education flexibility. This bill would expand it to all 50 States. And what it would do is give local school districts the ability to get waivers from those Federal regulations.

But the important thing about education flexibility is that it combines flexibility with accountability, which is the way it ought to be done. You can get the waiver, the local school districts can get the waiver from the Federal requirements, but only if they have local standards that they can demonstrate that they are meeting.

The key word in there is local. Not national standards. They can have their own standards, but they have to have that accountability/flexibility mix. The Education Flexibility Act that is being proposed and introduced this week offers that mix and is a key to helping our schools move forward with the important job they do of reforming the education system and educating our children.

I think it is very important that we go further than the Education Flexibility Act. Right now there is far too much red tape and far too many regulations in hundreds of different areas generated from the Federal Government. That does not really help our local schools but only ties them in knots.

I do not want the people working in the schools in my community to spend all of their time filling out forms and justifying their existence to the Federal Government. I want them to be educating the children there and doing the job that really matters. Right now, far too often, they are filling out the forms and trying to qualify for the money and continually justifying what they are doing. We need to change that. We need to shift to local control.

From one end of this country to the other exciting things are going on in States and school districts. They are making the reforms necessary. They are moving toward accountability. And right now the Federal Government is too big of a noose stopping them from making progress on that. We need to make changes like the Education Flexibility Act.

As a Democrat, I have always been a strong supporter of education, and I support my fellow Democrats in supporting spending the money necessary to help with education and supporting public education. Public education is

responsible for over 90 percent of the children in this country getting educated. It needs our support.

But we cannot simply spend money on it. We must show that we are willing to move in two other critical directions. One is accountability and the other is flexibility, which means local control. Giving the power back to the individual school districts and the individual schools, and ultimately to the teachers and parents who are closest to the product, closest to our children and closest to educating them and who know best how to do it.

We need to make those changes so that we can have the world class public education system we need. The Education Flexibility Act that we introduce this week, as I mentioned, primarily sponsored by the gentleman from Indiana and the gentleman from Delaware, is a critical step. I urge all of my colleagues to support Ed-Flex, pass it as soon as possible, and then go further to encourage the flexibility and accountability that we need in our local schools.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PRO- VIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 669, AMENDING PEACE CORPS ACT TO AUTHORIZE AP- PROPRIATIONS FOR FY 2000 THROUGH 2003 TO CARRY OUT THAT ACT

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-30) on the resolution (H. Res. 83) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 669) to amend the Peace Corps Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 through 2003 to carry out that act, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject matter of my special order regarding the late "Vinegar Bend" Mizelle, as well as the special order of my colleague from North Carolina (Mr. BURR).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

IN MEMORY OF WILMER "VINEGAR BEND" MIZELLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, my good friend from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) has already touched on Vinegar Bend's